



## LESSON PLAN

# The Importance of Volunteering

Topic: **Service Learning/Volunteering** | Grade Level: **High School**

Subject: **Social Studies** | Time: **50 minutes class time plus time for volunteering project**

### OBJECTIVE(S):

Students will deepen their understanding of the importance of volunteering and its benefits to both volunteers and the larger community. They will plan, organize, and implement a class volunteer project. *(April is National Volunteer Month. It is suggested that this lesson plan be introduced earlier in the school year so volunteer projects can be completed in April.)*

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- "Video Class" video from the MilitaryKidsConnect.org website
- Volunteer Project Brainstorming Worksheet
- Volunteer Project Planning Worksheet
- Volunteer Project Assessment Worksheet
- Go to "Related Materials" in on-line version of this lesson plan to access all required links: [www.militarykidsconnect.org/p/lp/high](http://www.militarykidsconnect.org/p/lp/high)

### OTHER RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Computer with classroom display and Internet access

## LESSON

### Suggested Activity Set-up and Discussion (5 minutes)

- Teacher-led discussion
  - Sometimes people associate volunteering with donating – giving food, clothing, or toys to those in need. By definition, a volunteer is a person who performs a *service* for someone else. Who can describe some ways to serve others?
  - How about the military? People who join our Armed Forces are volunteering to serve our country, sometimes in distant places and even dangerous places.
  - Explain that students are about to watch a video about a teen whose father is in the military. His father's service inspires him to launch a volunteer project.

### Video (3 ½ minutes)

- Cue and screen the "Video Class" video

### Teacher-Led Group Discussion (3 minutes)

- Did you notice that Kyle's volunteer experience was not a one-way street? He didn't just *give*; he *received* something from his efforts. What benefits did Kyle derive from his service to others?

### Small-Group Work (20 minutes)

- Inform students that they are to use the Project Brainstorming Worksheet to come up with one or more ideas for a service project that the class can perform over the course of the semester.

### Oral Presentations (7 minutes)

- A representative from each small group presents their group's idea(s) to the class.
- Class votes to determine which project to undertake.

**Class Discussion** *(10 minutes)*

- Explain that students are to plan, organize, and execute the project.
- Using the Project Planning Worksheet, students decide on immediate steps to take.
- Planning process will continue over the course of the semester as the project takes shape.
- At end of semester, students will use the Volunteer Project Assessment Worksheet to evaluate the project and its outcomes.

## WORKSHEET

# Volunteer Project Brainstorming

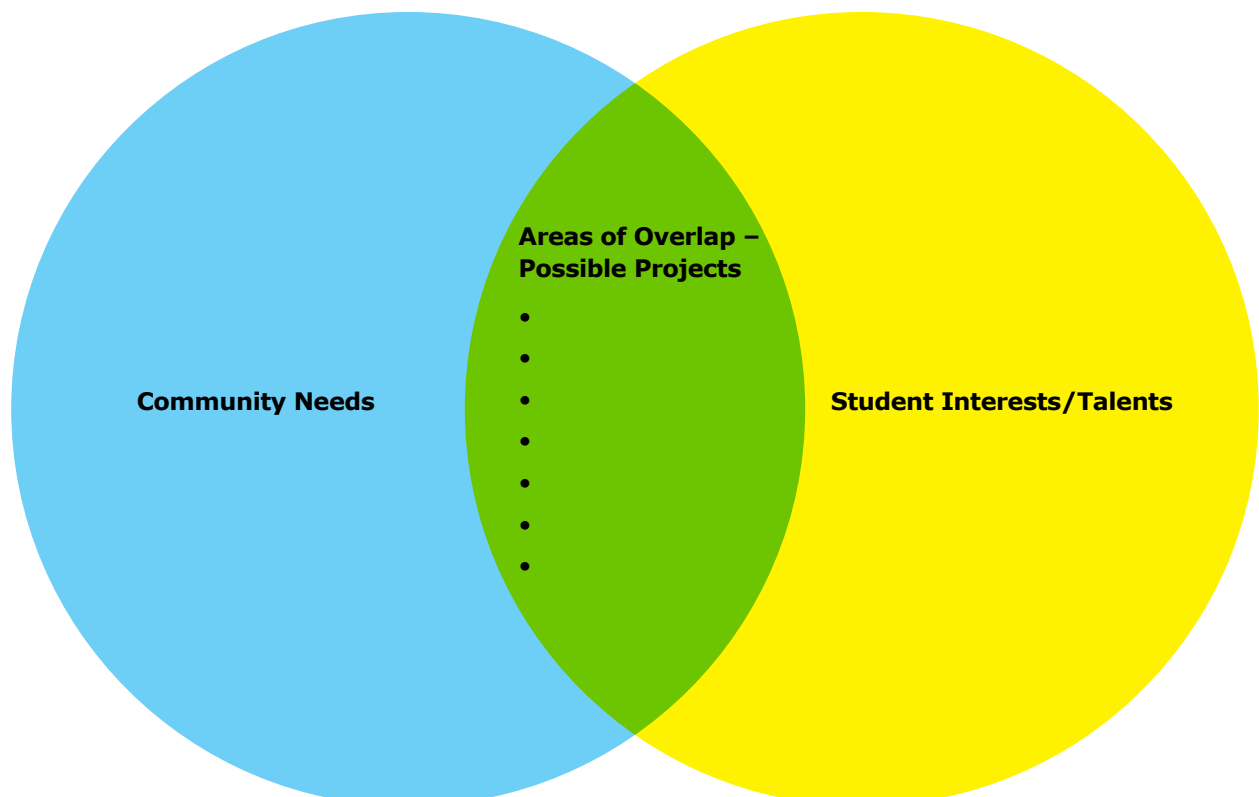
**Directions:** Make a list of the most pressing needs within your community and another list of the special interests/talents of the students in your group. Come up with one or more projects that address areas where the two lists overlap.

### Community Needs

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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### Student Interests/Talents

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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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## WORKSHEET

# Volunteer Project Planning

Our volunteer project: \_\_\_\_\_

Our goal: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Example: To collect donations and mail care packages to deployed service members.)

*To be successful, all projects require planning. Use this chart to list the initial steps for your project, and use the chart or another tool to continue the planning process throughout the project. A good resource about teen volunteer projects is the "City of Bloomington Volunteer Network Teen Volunteer Guide," available at <http://bloomington.in.gov/media/media/application/pdf/11337.pdf>*

Steps	Who will do this?	Deadline?	Resources needed? (Materials or help from adult)	How do I acquire resources? (i.e., ask teacher for help or request that local business donate supplies)	Volunteer hours spent
Step 1:					
Step 2:					
Step 3:					
Step 4:					

# WORKSHEET

## Volunteer Project Assessment

1. Our volunteer activity was to:
2. Our goal was to:
3. Our approach to planning and implementing the project:
4. Problems we encountered along the way and how we solved them:
5. Results/outcome: *(if you did not meet your goal, explain why)*
6. We spent a total of \_\_\_\_\_ hours on the project *(calculate the number of hours each group member spent and add them together):*
7. We learned that our community:
8. We learned this about ourselves: